

Thursday, November 23, 2023 • \$1

School board hears from disgruntled former teacher

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

> The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held their regular scheduled meeting last Monday evening, with trustees Mary McCallister, single member District 7. and Jimmy Morris. single member District 4 absent.

After calling the meeting to order, President Eddie Natera called on the attendees who signed up for public comment. Gracie Galindo, a former teacher at Alpine Elementary School (AES) took the allowed five minutes to comment on the reasoning for her resignation from AES. Galindo told the board that her resignation came because of what

she believed to be a lack of support from the school's administration.

Galindo proceeded to explain that after multiple requests to the AES administration to re-



teaching and the other students, the administration refused to remove the student from her Rinehart classroom.

> At Galindo's third formal request (according to her recollection) that the student be removed from her classroom and after multiple meetings with the administration about this

student's behavior, her requests were still denied at which point she informed the assistant principal Emily Greene that she would be tenuring her immediate resignation since they continually denied her removal request.

The Avalanche reached out to Alpine ISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart requesting the official date of resignation from Galindo and was told

See AISD • 8

Music a big part of Artwalk



Local band The Swifts, showcased their exceptional talents on more than one stage during this year's Artwalk event. They are pictured here on the Texas Music Mural stage and members are Neil Trammell, Amelie Urbanczyk, Chris Ruggia, Eden Hinshaw, and Tony Curry.

Christmas in Alpine

BY JOH COVINGTON Staff Writer

This holiday season, starting December 1, the City of Alpine will be doing its best representation of a Christmas card when Historic Alpine and Visit Alpine TX will present "Christmas in Alpine" as a charming oasis of holiday magic in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Event coordinator Abby Branch said, "The Christmas in Alpine weekend is more than just an event; it's a heartfelt experience that captures the essence of holidays and our rich history. It's a tapestry of community, history, and the joyous spirit of Christmas woven from my cherished childhood memories in Alpine."

This event has been in the works throughout the year, with plans being made to make Alpine welcome you like an old friend, one that invites you to step back in time and come home for the holidays.

"The weekend begins with music, shopping, and wassail, reminiscent of those magical Thursday

See CHRISTMAS • 8

INSIDE



Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport



The new kid in town: Lowe's Markets

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

Beginning next Friday, Pay and Save, Inc. dba Lowe's Markets will officially take over what is currently Porter's Grocery Store. The purchase of all 10 of the Porter's chain of stores was announced in the October 5 edition of the Avalanche.

A spokesperson for the Porter family stated, "The Lowe family and their company culture are the gold standard for family-owned grocers. Their approach to business aligns perfectly with our founding principles, and we know they will take care of our customers and team members."

Matt Corbin, Director of Marketing for Lowe's Markets told the Avalanche that while there will be a few im-

mediate changes, none of them will be drastic. "The first thing we will do is replace the sign on the outside of the building as soon as we can. We will install a new point-of-sale system, but other branding inside the store will only be gradually changed. The Porter and Lowe family have a good relationship and Porter's understands that these changes take time and are not in any way worried about all of the branding taking place immediately."

One of the other changes Corbin mentioned was that there was to be an upgrade in the packaged meats. Lowe's planned to not only bring a greater selection but also more choices of prime cuts.

Since the remodel of



Lowe's Market in Brady, Texas.

Porter's, there has been a noticeable improvement in the selection of some grocery items that would seem unlikely to be on a shelf in Alpine. Items such as gourmet cheeses, kimchi, charcuterie trays, and other heatand-eat meals catering to specialty diets. The Avalanche asked Corbin if this was something Lowe's Markets planned to keep in place or would these items be removed from the shelves to make

MEMBER FDIC 1 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Courtesy photo

room for their products. Corbin said, "Our goal is not to change everything so drastically that no one can purchase what they've come to count on. We of course as a business must keep a close eye on what sells and what does not. If a product is not moving, after a while it is not financially intelligent to keep it on the shelf. The good news for Alpine's consumers is that our company, with over 150

stores, has access to the biggest selection of the Affiliated Foods distribution co-op, the same co-op that Porter's used. So, while there will be a few different items coming along, almost everything will stay familiar."

One of the differences between the two is that while our current store runs its weekly ads from Tuesdays to Mondays, Lowe's will run theirs from Wednesdays to Tuesdays.

Roger Lowe, President and CEO of Pay and Save, Inc. concluded, "Lowe's Markets and Porters Grocery stores are very similar. This acquisition was between friends and we share the responsibility for making the transition a smooth one for both customers and employees."



Students named top 10 in the nation

BY JOH COVINGTON Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners Court met for their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 14. Two students from Marathon were present at this meeting, they participated in the National History Fair recently, where they were ranked as top ten in the nation. The commissioner's court gave them accolades and presented them with plaques to recognize their achievement.

The two young women shared that they learned a lot during the process of competing, starting in the county, to state, and into the national competition held in Washington.

Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington said to them, "From history we learn about where we go in the future."

Commissioner Pct.3, Ruben Ortega, stepped forward to award them with the plaques and said, "Travis Roberts would be extremely proud, we're extremely proud, but Mr. Roberts would be shining for you guys right now."

After the students left, the court moved on to



The commissioner's court recognized two Marathon students at the last meeting. Pictured here are Commissioners Jim Westerman and Sara Colando, Judge Greg Henington, Annaliese West, Izabella Briones, and Commissioner Ruben Ortega.

hear from the election department about the voting turnout percentage for the county. Lora Nussbaum, elections administrator, told the court that 19% of the registered voters in the county came out to vote and that there was approximately only a 10% turnout Texas-wide.

Next, Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson came forward regarding the purchase of a vehicle for the county. The 2023 Chevrolet Blazer, purchased for the amount of \$37,676.25 from the abandoned vehicle fund after the recent sheriff's office auction, will be used as a county pool vehicle.

Henington gave the

county judge's report, updating the court that all the trees on the courthouse lawn have been tended to, that AEP was replacing one of the wooden telephone poles outside with a donated metal one, and that the sewer line at the old library is now fixed.

According to Henington, the Spirits of the West festival in April has outgrown Sixth Street and will be hosted on the courthouse lawn next year.

The court updated its Brewster County Project List to include the potential purchase of agenda software, which would streamline the agenda and meeting methods.

A check amount for

\$40,180 was also added to the list, for the purchase of a 50' towable boom lift. And \$43,201.75 was also added to the list for the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet crew cab to replace a current vehicle in the facilities management fleet.

The court approved to appoint Pct. 4 commissioner, Mo Morrow, to the County Appraisal District Board. This position has a term of two years and Morrow is set to begin his term on January 1.

The county also approved a contract with Talent Roofing, Inc. to repair the roof of the Sheriff's office which is also the historic county jail. The payment of \$29,746.15 will be made from the Historic Preservation fund.

Lastly, the court approved \$28,200 for Brewster County Tourism, for the annual Blues of the Green contract. This festival in Austin has been a big source of exposure according to executive director Robert Alvarez.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Brewster County Commissioner's Court will be held on November 28.



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CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers • Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries

STARTERS: Tortilla Soup Bowl • Jalapeno and Cilantro

Soup • Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico

de Gallo • Bacon Wrapped Asparagus • Tumbleweed

Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup • Alpine Black

Reflections of light



Fifth graders Rynn Matthews and Cutter Baeza investigate the properties of light reflection and refraction during science class.

Courtesy photo

Officers gets evidence training



Lt. Kirk Caughman and Officer Karina Lagarreta recently attended the Texas Association of **Property and Evidence Inventory technician** training in San Marcos. Lt. Caughman earned an Advanced Evidence Technician designation while Officer Lagarreta earned her Intermediate Evidence Technician designation.

Courtesy photo

Artwalk's featured artist and grand marshall



Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District (District): Notice of Public Hearing.

The District will hold a Public Hearing at 8:00 AM, December 21, 2023, on proposed changes to District Rules. The hearing will be held at the Val Clark Beard Conference Room, 203 N 7th Street, Alpine, Texas.

The proposed rules revise the District's existing rules:

(1) as a result of amendments to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code related to exempt wells, contested case procedures and uncontested hearing procedures and petitions for rulemaking;

(2) related to requirements for a drilling permit or groundwater withdrawal permit;

- (3) related to application and production fees;
- (4) to adopt a civil penalty schedule; and
- (5) to improve clarity and consistency.

Proposed rules are available on the District website <u>BrewsterCountyGCD.com</u>, or send email to bcgwcd@gmail.com.

Oral testimony may be made at the Hearing by submitting a registration form to the District before the hearing begins. The District will accept written comments on the proposed rules until 5:00 PM, December 18, 2023, via email to bcgwcd@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 465, Alpine, Texas 79831. Please contact the office at (432) 244-6030 or the email above with questions.

The 2023 Artwalk featured artist and art car parade grand marshall was local artist Tom Curry.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

cappuccino /latte /mocha, fresh squeezed juices, smoothies, homemade soups, ham / turkey / chicken breast sandwiches, Reuben SADDLE PACK COMBINATION: sandwiches, meatloaf sandwiches, curry (Your choice of any two items) chicken sandwiches, rotisserie chicken & picnic lunches, fruit pies, cobblers, brownies, Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich tres leches cake.

Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

COCINERO: Beef • Chicken • Shrimp

Bean & Chicken Nachos

Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup 1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppered Bacon



Fiesta de Noche Buena

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MAIN STREET, MARATHON, TEXAS

BRI partners with Texas A&M Kingsville, state, and federal agencies

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) at Sul Ross State University has partnered with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CK-WRI) at Texas A&M University at Kingsville along with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) in an effort to track the transboundary movement of black bears and mountain lions along the U.S.-Mexico border in southwest Texas.

This five-year project, through funding provided by the CPB to the US-FWS in an inter-agency agreement, will tackle four main objectives on the movement of these large mammals.

Grant Harris, the Chief of Biological Sciences for the Southwest Region of USFWS said, "U.S. Fish and Wildlife is evaluating what, if any, impacts to wildlife movement resulted from prior border barrier construction and possible actions to mitigate those impacts. We believe that partnering with the science experts who are local to the issues in these regions is the best strategy for obtaining the most accurate data."

Since the increase in black bear activity in the Big Bend area, the Borderlands Research Institute will lead the study on this species, their movements, and their ecology. Much of this data is already being collected in a bear study being done by a BRI student and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The mountain lion study will be conducted by the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and both of these universities have researchers that are known and respected for being able to produce peerreviewed, science-based research on the movements and ecologies of large mammals.

There are four main objectives to this project including being the first to produce a peerreviewed publication of literature review on the topic of barrier system effects on large mammals. Secondly, this project will be looking to provide the types and amounts of mitigation efforts for government agencies to consider. The third objective is to promote the recovery of both black bears and mountain lions by en-



Over 40 participants attended the informal meeting held at the Sul Ross State University campus in Del Rio recently to discuss the transboundary movements of black bears and mountain lions project in Southwest Texas. Attendees included representatives from Sul Ross' BRI, Texas A&M Kingsville's CKWRI, TPWD biologists, and other federal agency representatives.

acting approved mitigation efforts, and finally, at the conclusion of the research, the teams will be able to provide a final report to USFWS about the project.

Recently, leading researchers from both universities hosted an informal meeting about the project for all of the partners involved. "We are pleased to work in collaboration with our Caesar Kleberb colleagues in addition to our state biologists and federal agencies on a project that has relevance for wildlife in Texas," said Dr. Louis A. Harveson, the Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., endowed director of the Borderlands Research Institute. "This project will add to our scientific understanding about wildlife movements along the U.S.-Mexico border."

Biologists from TPWD

from counties all along the Texas border attended the informal meeting and one of their primary contributions on the project will be to connect interested landowners to the project and provide scat as well as hair samples of both species, along with other data. Along with biologists from TPWD, the agency's Nongame and Rare Species Program is also involved on the project.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's state mammal specialist, Dr. Dana Karelus said, "As the state wildlife agency, TPWD is very interested in understanding mountain lion and black bear ecology in South and West Texas. We know that these animals cross the border, but we do not know how crucial those movements and genetic connectivity may be for their populations. The information gained from this project will be valuable for TPWD as we monitor and assess the status of the two species in Texas."

Not only will this project determine how these two species' movements and population densities are affected by the presence of a border barrier, but it will also support multiple master's and Ph.D. students to gather and analyze the data with researcher and faculty support. BCSO begins their Brown Santa drive BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

The Brewster County Sheriff's Office began its annual Brown Santa toy drive last week to help bring Christmas cheer to those in the community who are less fortunate. BCSO is now accepting new, unwrapped toys at the Sheriff's Office located beside the Brewster County Courthouse Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be red metal barrels set up at businesses around town where toy donations can also be made. These barrels will be located at Tractor Supply, Dollar General, and True Value. Gifts will be presented to Brewster County children before Christmas, so the deadline for donations is December 19.



NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2023-03-01: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR PARKING CONTROLS IN THE 100 BLOCK OF WEST GALLEGO AVENUE AND THE 400 BLOCK OF SOUTH 5TH STREET; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

ORDINANCE 2023-06-01: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALPINE, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL FOUR WAY STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF 8TH STREET AND SUL ROSS AVENUE, THE INTERSECTIONS OF 8TH STREET AND AVENUE A, THE INTERSECTIONS OF 7TH AND HENDRYX AVENUE, AND THE INTERSECTIONS OF 8TH STREET AND DEL RIO AVENUE; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.





Ross Cashiola kicked off Artwalk's Friday night festivities on the brand-new Texas Mural Stage. This stage was lit up and welcoming with lights and a fire pit for attendees of the annual event.

Photo by Joh Covington

Big Bend Telephone secures \$25 million investment

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

In its mission to connect its rural communities with high-speed internet services, local communications business Big Bend Telephone, Inc. (BBT) has secured a \$25 million investment from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. This investment, along with a capital contribution from BBT of \$1,591,341 equals a total of \$26,591,341 to allow the local company a pathway toward the BBT Reconnect 4 Grant Project.

This grant project is focused on the deployment of a state-of-the-art, fiberto-premises network that will add over 272 linear miles of fiber optics in the rural Texas counties of Val Verde, Brewster, and Terrell. This project focuses on the areas of Comstock, Langtry, and the Terlingua Ghost Town as well as parts of the rural subdivisions of Salem's Point, Castle Canyon, and Guajia Bay in Val Verde County and the Terlingua Ranch in Brewster County. This initiative will serve more than 218 households within this region.

This evolutionary investment from BBT is one of many avenues the company pursues to bridge the digital divide for rural communities, helping to ensure that rural West Texans have the same opportunities as their fellow urbanites. It showcases their unwavering dedication to strengthening connectivity, and digital access, and reaffirms their commitment to fulfilling the needs of

Christmas Parade scheduled

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

The City of Alpine has set the date for this year's Hometown Christmas Parade. On December 16 at 5 p.m., interested participants are invited to join the fun by lining up at City Hall. The city welcomes decorated floats, cars, trucks, trailers, as well as dogs and horses.

The lineup is scheduled for 5-5:30 p.m. with the city tree lighting happening immediately afterwards. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. and travel east down Holland Ave to Third Street where it will end at the Alpine Visitor's Center.

After the parade, the Visitor's Center welcomes the Alpine community to enjoy refreshments, pictures with Santa, and Christmas music performed by the Alpine Community Band.

For more information contact Heather Yadon at 432-837-2326.

businesses and individuals across their rural service areas. COPIES OF THE ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N. 13TH STREET, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING <u>CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.</u> <u>COM</u>. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT 432-837-3301, OPTION 1.

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NLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR?

RESULTS

GOING HOME TO MY FAMILY.

STAYING PUT AND CELEBRATING WITH FRIENDS.

I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING.

SPENDING IT WITH MY SIGNIFICANT OTHER'S FAMILY.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

Which of these would be the hardest to live without?

-Music

-Your phone

-TV/Streaming

-Your vehicle

-Restaurants

Vote for this week's poll online at: www.AlpineAvalanche.com

"TERS ΕT

Send us your letters.

Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published.

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed.

Send your letters to kara.gerbert@ alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.



Thankful for every moment of memories

"I'm thankful for every tion went only to moment." – Al Green, singer and

songwriter.

The holiday season is the best. I've long contended Thanksgiving preceding Christmas is not a coincidence. It's a chance to be thankful for the most joyous season and end the year on a high note.

My blessings are many. And long is the list of things for which I am thankful. For the last few years, that's included a conversation with a business associate with whom I shared short

Thanksgiving memories about our grandmothers. While wrapping up business for the holiday week via email with Wachelle at

the Dallas PR firm we used at the time, she said something that resonated with me for the rest of that day.

"We are scheduled for next week. Yay ... " her response to my submissions read. I countered with the good news that we also had another couple of weeks of social media programs in the works.

"My grandmomma would say ... 'Stop showing out,'" she replied. "I like your grandmomma's sayings," I told her. "Mine was a wise woman for someone whose educa-

the eighth grade. She had a huge influence on my life."

"Don't you miss her," Wachelle asked. "I really miss her cooking." I agreed, remem-

Guest Columnist bering my granny's cooking. Then for the rest of the day, all I could think about was holiday and Sunday dinners at my grandparents' house.

Truthfully, any Sunday dinner prepared by my father's mother was the equivalent of a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. She stopped preparing festive dinners when my grandfather died in 1967, but I remember her cooking like it was yesterday.

It was yesterday time when families ate more meals at home. The fastfood boom was yet to happen and eating out at a "real" restaurant was a treat for rare occasions. It was also a yesterday when, like for most families then, a meal at our home in Mount Pleasant was on the table precisely coordinated with Dad's arrival from work. Not being at the table at that time was not an option unless you were so badly incapacitated that walking was out of the question. Also,



deciding whether mom's menu coincided with your taste buds. You ate what was on the table without criticism or comment-unless it was a favorable comment about

how good it was. Although it was the age of "eat what your momma put on the table," there was no way even the pickiest eater was going to leave granny's table hungry on any day. The table that occupied my grandmother's dining room and now resides in mine, was filled to capacity with choices. Common fare was fried chicken or ham, usually both. Every imaginable vegetable, salad, and casserole was there, along with hot rolls. If that wasn't enough, the aroma of a freshly baked pie wafted from the kitchen as a reminder to save a little room.

The cooking was a labor of love, and meals were always on the table on time. That was no small feat for a Sunday dinner considering everyone at the Pittsburg Methodist Church knew my grandmother was really under the weather if she was not in her pew for worship service. That was a feat accomplished only by many

hours spent in the kitchen Saturday night and early Sunday morning, something that never dawned on me as a child. I thought the meals were just another form of "grandmother's magic."

It was hard to notice behind-the-scenes work that our parents and grandparents put into family get-togethers when, as kids, we were in the yard running through fall leaves and looking for pecans under huge trees that lined my grandfather's yard.

Smell is purported to be one of the strongest sensory preceptors linked to memory. I know that it's true. A whiff of leaves burning even today reminds me of raking and burning leaves in that same yard more than 60 years ago.

"Don't you miss her," Wachelle's words echoed in my mind last week. I do miss her and I'm thankful for the memories of many Thanksgiving pasts she gave me. I'm also thankful for the values my grandparents and parents gave me regarding family traditions that have fashioned my Thanksgivings for a lifetime, and every moment of the memories I'm still making.

Sta<u>ff</u>

PUPINE AVALANCHE

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation will be corrected when such occurs in this newspaper and is brought to the publisher's attention.

Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for all of the memories that go with the season.

ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gavin Newsom The U.S. California governor, foolish head of his political party, has chosen

to hug the derriere of Xi Jinping, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party. His level of appeasement, with the obvious approval

of his POTUS, hasn't been seen since Neville Chamberlain chose to hug the derriere of Adolf Hitler at the beginning of WWII. Not only isn't Gavin Newsom's party alarmed by this equivalent to a horrible historical action, but they're also celebrating his

proceedings. Appeasements are equated to weakness by the Chinese Communist Party, as it was by the Deutscher Nationalsozialisten, i.e. German NAZI. Actions such as this can be a catalyst to the next world war that's not far from realization, as Chamberlain's actions proved to be in the 20th century. But maybe this is what Newsom's political party is hoping for. May God help to save America from the fiends, foreign and domestic, who seek to destroy it.

> James R. Le Blanc Fort Davis, Texas

Thank you

I would like to thank our entire coaching staff, our athletic trainer, and our coaches' families. Coaches spend a lot of time away from home and from their families in preparation for coaching football. They work tireless hours away from home and pour so much into our kids & program. We have a wonderful coaching staff that loves kids. These coaches spend more time at the office and on the practice field with our Alpine Fightin' Bucks play-

ers than they do with their own families. Thank you to them for loving our players.

Thank you to our administration team at Alpine ISD, particularly Dr. Michelle Rinehart, Jarett Vickers, Peggy Low, Judith Pardo, Curtis Wubbena, Caroline Fox, Darin Nance, and Chris Valenzuela. They have been extremely supportive of our coaches and our studentathletes. A big shout out to Chayo Gonzales for his support of the Athletic program and for being the best bus driver in West Texas.

Thank you to Linda Mor-

ris, Lauren Martinez, and AK Holmes for always having the band & cheerleaders at every contest. Thank you for supporting our athletic program and our studentathletes.

Thank you to Phillip Fierro and Noe Lujan for supporting the athletic program throughout the year with action photography throughout the season. Thank you for being at every game & supporting the Fightin' Bucks Program.

Thank you to our amazing Senior Football players. You have set the foundation for years to come. Five straight bi-district championships. Thank you for buying into our coaches and being great leaders for our team. You set great examples for our future Bucks. We love you and we thank you for your dedication to the program.

Thank you to Joh Covington and the Alpine Avalanche for their wonderful coverage of Fightin' Bucks Sports throughout the season. We appreciate your coverage of our kids in our community. We thank you.

> Athletic Director, Coach Andy Smith



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thankful for?

Haisley Hamby:

I am thankful for

my whole family.

Send your community events to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche. сот

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 24-25 Overland Trail Museum, Thanksgiving hours 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 511 N. Fort St., Fort Davis. Donations appreciated. Nov. 25 Turkey Trot, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. start, family and pet friendly 5k walk/run benefitting the Alpine Public Library. The race begins at Kishmish Plaza and festive costumes are encouraged.

Nov. 29 – Jan. 1 Fort Davis National Historic Site, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Frontier Christmas, with Christmas décor on display through historic structures.

Dec. 1-2 Alpine Historic **Commission Holiday Event**, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday the Wassail Crawl followed immediately by the tree lighting at the Brewster County courthouse. The tour of historic homes begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday and continues until 4:30 p.m. There is a \$25 charge for the home tour with proceeds benefiting this event for next year. At 5:30 p.m. the annual Christmas Stroll up Sul Ross Ave will begin with music from student bands and will conclude at the Vaguero House at 208 N. Cockrell with a closing con-



cert featuring The Swifts. Visit the Historic Alpine website for more information.

Dec. 9-11 Marfa Holiday **Bazaar**, with hot cocoa, snacks, a holiday lights parade, singing from the Marfa Children's Choir, and tree lighting on Friday. Vendors, music, and more on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m., and on Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. more shopping, music, and a pet parade at 3 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules available on front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.

Alpine Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.

American Legion Post 79 meeting, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.

American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5: 30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals, on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary in Alpine. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchorale. wixsite.com/bbcc.

Celebrate Recovery, at Big Bend Cowboy Church on Monday evenings 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information contact CW at 432-386-3628 or Stacey at 432-386-2979.

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

www.alpine avalanche.com

ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210

Kiwanis Club of Alpine,

Late Night Game Night, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night at Amigo, 101 W. Ave E.

OLE CRYSTAL BAR





all all a share the





Wherefore art thankful for water, turkey, Christmas, light, and fire alarms.



Jax Ferjo: I am

Mace McWilliams: I am thankful that my dad came home safe from the Air Force.



thou Romeo

Mrs. Ramos' AP-English Literature class at Alpine High School recently visited the Globe Theatre in Odessa to watch a production of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.



Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Sasha.



Zoe Wood: I am thankful for the world, my family, friends, and my teacher.





Jaxon Skinner: I am thankful for my mom and dad, Mrs. A, and all the teachers at my school.

Sasha is a two-month-old domestic short-haired kitten with eyes that draw you in. A little shy, this girl is looking for her fur-ever home in time for the holidays.

Sasha will make a calm, loving companion for any family. She'll warm up and come out of her shell to be part of the household in no time.

November 28 is Giving Tuesday, the Global Day of Support for nonprofit organizations. Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to provide your year-end donations to Alpine Humane Society and it's a chance to challenge friends and family to meet or beat your giving amount.

Don't forget to order your See's Candies from our seasonal online storefront. It's easy to knock out your holiday shopping list with favorites everyone will enjoy. Find the link on our Facebook page or email us at admin@alpinehumanesociety.org and we'll send you the link. Sales close November 30.



tesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the Shelter at 432-837-9030.

ciety Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit PetFinder.com or www.alpinehumanesociety.org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



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BY JOH COVINGTON Staff Writer

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks played the Idalou Wildcats in Andrews on

Sports

Friday, falling 18-64. The Bucks had progressed to the Area competition after having won their bi-district match-up against Brady with a final score of 29-23.

"Idalou is extremely talented, and we look forward to traveling to Andrews on Friday to compete for another championship," said head coach and athletic director Andy Smith before the game.

In the first quarter of the game against Idalou, Idalou would score first with a 19-yard pass from Tate Hendley to Kutter Houchin along with a two-point conversion. This put the Wildcats on the scoreboard first with eight points.





Fightin' Bucks stopped before regionals

Logan Smith carries the ball in play during the Buck's Area game against Idalou last week.

Bucks player Auden Ramirez then made a 17-yard touchdown off a pass by Devon Rojo, gaining them six points. Then, Lucas Jarnagin's seven-yard pass from Tate Hendley followed with a kick from Colton Hurst bumping the Wildcats up to 15 points. The first quarter ended with Idalou leading, 6-15.

At the top of the second quarter, Rojo would complete a pass to Reese Ahrens who made a 15yard touchdown with a failed two-point conversion, taking Alpine up to 12 points. Idalou's Gentry Pounds then made a seven-yard run followed by a kick from Colton Hurst. The second quarter ended with Alpine trailing 12-22, ending the first half of the game.

After halftime, at the beginning of the third quarter, the Fightin' Bucks didn't put anything on the scoreboard, however, the Idalou team Photo by Zayden Camargo

ran multiple successful plays. With a 12-yard run from Gentry Pounds and a kick from Hurst, the opposing team jumped to 29 points. This was followed by an eight-yard touchdown from Blake Dyas and an additional point after touchdown with a kick from Hurst.

The Idalou team continued to climb during this quarter, with a 16yard pass from Hendley to Logan Mennel and an interception return

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCK BASKETBALL Nov. 28 Van Horn @ Alpine@ AMS JV 5 p.m. Varsity 8 p.m. Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Alpine JV @ Pecos JV Tournament TBD Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Alpine @ Denver City Tournament TBD

LADYBUCKS BASKETBALL Nov. 28 Van Horn @ Alpine JV Team

5 p.m. Varsity 6:30 p.m. Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Alpine @ Denver City Tournament. TBD

by Aiden Sanchez. The third quarter ended with Idalou leading 12-50.

Alpine wasn't done with the game, however, showing that fourthquarter spirit that fans saw throughout the season. The Fightin' Bucks started the quarter off with a successful 21yard run from Logan Smith, increasing their standing to 18 points on the board.

Unfortunately, those would be the last points gained for the Alpine team during this game. The Wildcats continued their offense plays with a 21-yard run from Blake Dyas and a 22-yard run from AJ Huddleston, both followed by successful kicks from Hurst. The game ended with Al-

pine falling to the Idalou team 18-64.

Alpine ended the season as second in the district and won half of the games they played. At the beginning of the season, head coach and athletic director Andy Smith recalled that one of his old coaches said that people remember the games in November and December. The Alpine team did well to reach the end of November, playing several games where they were able to succeed in the last quarters.

"We played extremely well in the first half and had a few chances to take the lead in that first half. We just could not get on track in the third quarter, and we had a few costly turnovers that changed the momentum of the game. We never gave up and the kids played extremely hard for four quarters. We had a tremendous season, and all of our kids should hold their heads up high & be proud of their accomplishments. The team improved throughout the season and had a great year," remarked Coach Andy Smith.



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Lady Buck Basketball had Parent Practice on November 11. Parents participated in basketball drills along with their daughters.

Courtesy photo



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Lady Bucks swing into the basketball season

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

The Alpine Lady Bucks have started their season, facing the Midland Christian Mustangs



for a non-district away game on Friday, November 17. The Alpine team lost 30-56 but made some impressive plays in their beginning foray.

Lady Bucks coach, Christopher Virdell, said, "We were very excited to play a quality team like Midland Christian. They gave us a different look at the overall competition because of their size. It was a great game to prepare us for the types of teams we will see in the upcoming tournaments."

During this game, the Lady Bucks made 30 total points with winning shots, with Novah Carrasco leading by shooting for a total of 15 points alone. Carrasco was followed by junior Neveah Carrasco and freshman Aileah Fierro, each with four points. Junior Hope Dominguez and sophomore Karolina Castillo each gained two points to add to their total. Sophomore Nadia

See LADY BUCKS • 7



Lady Lobos battle to the end, fall short

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

The Sul Ross Lady Lobo basketball team took to the court at the Gallego Center last Wednesday afternoon, taking on future Lone Star Conference competitor the Mustangs of Western New Mexico University. Sul Ross would fall just short of the W in the last minutes of the game, falling to the Mustangs 65-69.

Four of the Lobos hit double-digits on the scoreboard, in what was a physical game from start to finish. Morgan Peralez put up an impressive 22 points on the day, with most of her shots coming in the form of layups.

Likewise, Victoria Aguayo was a force to be reckoned with on the Lobo court, her small stature allowing her to get by and in between many of the WNM players for a total of 18 points on the day, with a total of three, three-pointers.

Marley Rokas, a returning player from last

Taking

a hit

Alpine Fightin'

Buck senior Reese

Ahrens takes an

aggressive hit off an Idalou player in

last Friday's Area championship

Photo by Zayden

game.

Carmago

year, and Cheyanne Bonilla would hit 15 points and 10 points respectively against the Mustangs, in a contest where there were a total of 13 lead changes and nine score changes in the game.

Both teams swapped the lead in the first quarter until one of Aguayo's three-pointers put the Lobos up, but it was quickly followed by a three-pointer from the Mustangs which put them in the lead again by one. Peralez in one of her many layups would take the lead from the Mustangs with a layup bringing the Lobos ahead 11-10. This sparked a 6-0 run to put the Lobos ahead by five.

The Lobos would struggle throughout the contest with fouls, which may have cost the ladies a few points, beginning at the end of the first where a couple of free throws coupled with a three-pointer by WNMU would tie the game at 15all at the end of the first quarter.

Aguayo would begin the second quarter with another three-pointer, but the Mustangs would answer back with one of their own.

Peralez was able to draw a foul and hit the free-throw line that would give Sul Ross a 20-28 lead with just over seven minutes left on the clock.

The Mustangs took off on an 8-0 run, leaving the Lobos trailing by double digits, before a 7-0 run with the help of a threepointer by Bonilla and four points from Perlez would end the first half with the Lobos trailing by four, 29-33.

Both teams would trade leads during the third, and by the start of the fourth quarter, Sul Ross was trailing WNMU until a 10-0 run put them ahead by four with just over seven minutes left in the game. In the final minutes of the game, the lead would change three times.

Rokas, with a minute and a half left, would complete a layup to put the Lobos ahead by one, 65-64. The Mustangs would take a 5-0 run,



Morgan Peralez is fouled in an attempt at a goal in the game against Western New Mexico University last Wednesday.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

which would include two personal fouls by Aguayo in the last seconds of the game to pull ahead and take the win.

The Lady Lobos played an exhibition game in Odessa on Tuesday against the University of Texas Permian Basin followed up by a road trip to Houston where they take on Schreiner University on Saturday and the University of St. Thomas on Sunday.



years?

In what activities did you participate in high school?

In high school, I participated in track, cross country, FFA, athletic leadership council, and student council.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why? I don't think I can pick one

favorite teacher or coach. Mr. Fox and Coach Cason have been such a big influence on my life and are truly the reason I am the person I am today.

What was your favorite

I have been able to connect and grow friendships with all my teammates. What are your plans after high school?

My favorite moment in the

spending time with my team.

Whether it's FFA, track, or cross

country I enjoy every moment

last four years has been

After high school, I plan on attending Texas A&M University and majoring in animal science where hopefully I will get a degree to become a veterinarian.

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LADY BUCKS • FROM 6

Morris, freshman Collete Fowlkes, and junior Masiela Miranda all added to the team points as well from the shots they made. "It was a very close game through the first half and the girls played the type of transition game we are working towards, very fast. We are starting to see the speed and physicality that is played at the varsity level. With just a few girls with varsity experience, it is key to get those types of games under our belts.'

in offense and defense, granting a close competition. In the second half, the opposing team slipped past that defense a few too many times. Virdell was very pleased with the rotation and contribution each player made. According to him, they were out-rebounded, "which I knew was going to be difficult because of their size, and we need to clean up our turnover ratio," he said. The coach shared that they would come into practice and focus on those things as they prepare for their next game against Van Horn at home.

"I did see positive growth in many areas and the girls are rapidly attacking that learning curve. I was very pleased with our shot selection, communication on both sides of the floor, and especially in our transition game," Virdell said. Next up for the Lady Bucks basketball team, will be a non-district home game against the Van Horn Eagles on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. "These girls are working hard, being coachable, competing every day and it will lead to success," said Virdell.

The first half of the game demanded the Alpine team to be vigilant

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CHRISTMAS • FROM 1

night holiday shopping events of the '80s. It then unfolds into a beautiful symphony of Christmas tree lights, caroling, and historic home tours, culminating in a musical promenade and luminarias leading up to Sul Ross, complete with hayrides," Branch said.

According to a press release for the event, the small-town charm of Alpine, or the rooftop garden of the Lonestar State, becomes even more enchanting during the holiday season.

With the famous vistas of the Chihuahuan Desert as a backdrop, Alpine, at Christmastime, becomes a vibrant tableau of Americana at its finest according to Branch. And the enduring spirit of community, festivity, and tradition converge to create a winter celebration unparalleled in its authenticity.

"The soul of this event lies in the amazing organizations that bring it to life – our dedicated non-profits, businesses, and community members. It's a time when



The Swifts playing music at last year's Wassail Crawl on the Vaquero porch.

we all come together to celebrate and share the warmth of our Alpine spirit," said Branch.

Mayor of Alpine and Vice President of Alpine Historic Association, Catherine Eaves said, "Thinking about the small-town holiday celebrations you see in Hallmark movies, we wanted to create that feeling here in Alpine for all residents."

All those involved have reportedly stepped the event up a notch by adding new additions to the lineup.

"This year, in addition

Courtesy photo

to the Christmas Stroll, we have added the Wassail Crawl, County Tree lighting, and shopping event which includes local businesses and Mountain County Christmas. There will also be a historic home tour before the Christmas Stroll which residents can purchase tickets for. We are excited about creating memories that will last a lifetime whether you are one or 100," said Eaves.

Visitors and locals are urged to get ready to unwrap the magic of Christmas in Alpine, with an array of activities and events brought to you by Alpine's local non-profits.

From the Wassail Crawl to the Christmas Stroll against the desert backdrop, Alpine is set to embody the essence of American holiday charm. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in December for an Alpine tradition that promises to make your holiday season even more special.

On Friday, December 1, from 4-7 p.m., participants can enjoy a cup of wassail as they journey through the Historic Alpine Wassail Crawl. Discover local historic downtown, stopping in at businesses that will have their doors open.

Following the Wassail Crawl will be the Big Bend Community Chorale event during the Brewster County Tree Lighting hosted by the Alpine Lion's Club.

On Saturday, December 2, families are welcome to go to the Kishmish Ice Skating Rink, set against a backdrop of a sparkling light maze at the newly revitalized Kishmish Plaza. Previously the site of Alpine Lumber, established 130 years ago, this iconic downtown landmark is a featured stop on the Alpine Historic Tour.

Regional artisans will be at the Mountain Country Christmas at the Alpine Civic Center. Brought to you by the Alpine Women's Club, this annual holiday sale supports community projects throughout the year.

From 1–4:30 p.m., the Historic Alpine Holiday Home Tour invites you to explore eight Historic Alpine homes. Whether you're looking for design inspiration or want to immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere, this tour is a delightful experience. Tickets are \$25 and it features seven homes including the historic Kinkaid Wade House, now operating as the Alpine Bed & Breakfast, built in 1888.

The Third Annual Historic Alpine Christmas Stroll, a musical prom-

enade with musical performances by The Alpine Montessori School, Alpine High School, Ft. Stockton Choir, The Alpine Community Band, and the Big Bend Community Chorale that meanders through Alpine's picturesque residential streets kicks off at 5:30 pm at the bottom of the hill with the first stops at the First Baptist Church of Alpine. The culmination of this beautiful stroll is the Sul Ross State University Christmas tree, where the community gathers to partake in a heartwarming symphony and soulful Christmas caroling led by Dr. Andrew Alegria. This is brought to you by Historic Alpine and Alpine Community Projects.

After the festivities, the headquarters for Historic Alpine, located at 208 N. Cockrell, or the Vaquero House, will host their annual Community Christmas party. Alpine's beloved band, The Swifts will be gracing the front porch stage.

AISD • FROM 1

she resigned via letter on November 2 and her resignation was officially accepted by the board of trustees on November 13.

Following the public comment portion of the meeting, the board heard from Preston Singleton of Singleton and Clark, CPAs here in Alpine. Clark's firm conducted the 2023 fiscal audit for Alpine ISD and explained to the board that he and his firm's job was to focus on the accuracy and reliability of the school finances.

Singleton went on to explain the process by which the audit was conducted and what areas were focused on. "We collect the state revenue information off the Texas Education Agency website and then to verify the payroll and expenditures of an ISD, we will look at these numbers on a sample basis," Singleton said. He went on to report that while there was an obvious discrepancy in the fund balance due to the completion of the

construction of the high school, overall Alpine ISD had no major issues. Singleton did caution the board about staying on top of bank reconciliation, and if left unattended promptly would cause problems down the road. Singleton also told the board that the one issue he did encounter was an excessive number of audit adjustments. He recommended that Alpine ISD CFO Chris Valenzuela seek out more accounting training.

After Singleton's presentation, the board voted to approve the audit as presented.

Following the audit presentation, Caroline Fox gave her report on Ribbon Week and the Veteran's Day program.

Alpine High School (AHS) principal Jarrett Vickers told the board that they had just completed their second round of drug testing at AHS. He also said that 50 students had just completed the TSIA (Texas Success Initiative Assessment) test. He told the board that while this test used to have to be administered at Sul Ross, assistant principal Peggy Low completed her proctoring certification this summer so that the tests now may be administered on the AHS campus.

Next on the agenda was a report given by Rinehart for Alpine ISD's athletic

Finally, Alpine ISD CFO Valenzuela presented budget amendments for all three campuses, moving funds from travel accounts at AES to the supplies account, the library and media account for Alpine Middle School to the supplies account, and from the robotics account to the supplies account at AHS.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Alpine ISD board of trustees is set for Wednesday, December 20 at 5:30 p.m.



Primary Care

the district's ESL evaluation and At-Risk updates followed by a report from each of the campus principals. AES principal Curtis Wubbena told the board that he was very proud of all of the community engagement that went on between the district and the community agencies such as law enforcement during Red

director Andy Smith, who was not at the meeting. Rinehart conveyed from Smith's report that so far three of the district's coaches had completed and received their CDL licenses and that he commended the girls' volleyball team on all of the athletes receiving District 4-3A Academic All-District honors.

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November

November 12, 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brady of Alpine are the proud parents of Miss Joan Brady. Joan was crowned sweetheart of the high school band during the Alpine and Sanderson football game.





23, 1945 The Army study center in Florence, Italy, is shown here while soldiers stand for a ceremony. This location it the first center that has been completely taken over by the U.S. in Italy.

November 23, 1945 U.S. The Navy has built an efficient supply base on Titian Island. This type of milibase tary has been deemed necessary by leaders for "future preservation.'



November 26, 1948 On Tuesday associate professor of music at Sul Ross, Professor Kelver, will present a piano recital. Kelver will also be traveling to North Texas State Teachers College to perform as well. There, he will also play "Sonata for Piano, Four Hands" and it is believed to be the first time the piece will be played in the state.

Tallow trees actually invasive to South Texas wetlands

Dear Neil: I am trying to remove lawn grass from a part of my yard. There are three large, old crape myrtles in that area, and they have extensive root systems. In removing the grass, I have damaged their roots and now I'm getting numerous sprouts coming up all over the place. I don't want to hurt other plants nearby (including the three mother crape myrtles). Is there anything such as Roundup that I can apply to the sprouts to kill them without harming the desirable plants? No, because they are parts of those mother plants. If you dig one of them up, you'll see that it is tethered to the main tree. I've had the same issue a few times when I've planted shrubs near a crape myrtle, and I've found that using a sharpshooter spade to remove those tethering roots usually discourages additional sprouts after a short time.



ery decades ago when I was in high school. Little did I know then, however, how invasive it is in wetlands in South Texas. I don't think your tree is going to die anytime soon in your landscape. That's unless we hit another really bad cold spell like we've had the past two winters. My suggestion, however: take this opportunity to change to another more desirable species.

Dear Neil: Can you tell me what is happening to this boxwood? It is one of 15 in a when parts don't get enough blood. Frostbite shows up at the tips of our fingers and toes and in our earlobes. The leaf tips are the areas farthest from the roots, so they're the first to dry out and the last to get water. This one plant somehow missed one or more waterings. If you have an automatic system, check the head that serves it. If you use a hose-end sprinkler, vary where you place it when you water the lawn. That way you'll have less chance of missing this plant entirely.

Apply an all-nitrogen plant food in early March and keep it watered at all times.

In case anyone suggests it might be the comparatively new boxwood blight disease that is common in the East and Midwest, this fact sheet will show you photos that show how the symptoms vary from those in your photo.

Dear Neil: I know I'm not supposed to cover the roots of my magnolia tree with soil to cover any exposed roots. I'm going to plant English ivy, but I'd also like to use small river rock over part of the root system in an area that has eroded. Will the rocks be of any harm?

No. They do not compact to stop the flow of air and water into and out of the soil. All will be well.

Have a question you'd like Neil to consider? Email him at mailbag@sperry gardens.com. Neil regrets that he cannot reply to questions individually.

Dear Neil: Our Chinese Tallow tree was damaged badly by the cold of February 2021. We lost half of the tree and had to have an arborist remove it for us. It developed a fungus on the trunk. This year the fungus diminished in size. Is the tree still at risk of dying?

"Dying" is such a relative term. A gnarly tree can be technically alive but visually unattractive (as in "worthless") in the landscape. At that point, it's time to replace it. I can't say that regarding your tallow tree because I can't see all of it. I personally like the tree a lot. It was the first tree I grew in my backyard nurshedge and all the others are healthy and green.

It looks like it will probably bounce back come spring.

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eleanor Margaret Hay Foster, Deceased, were issued on October 24, 2023, in Cause No. PR03136, pending in Brewster County, Texas, to Mark Foster. All claims be submitted can to Mr. Foster at 614 Mountainside Drive, Alpine, Texas, 798830.



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Devotional Page Being Thankful with Contentment

BY CLARK NUSSBAUM

First Assembly of God-Alpine

At this time of year, the days are shorter, the temperatures are lower, and the leaves are changing color, which points to the fall season. With the fall season, we begin to think and plan for Thanksgiving and look forward to all of the festivities through the remainder of the year. This time of the year, especially, should be a time when we collectively give thanks for the blessings that we have received from our heavenly Father. In order to be truly thankful for what we have been blessed with, I believe that we need to have a truly content heart.

I believe the definition of contentment is the joyful satisfaction with what has been entrusted to me by my heavenly Father. I must trust that my heavenly Father knows and provides what I need. Unfortunately, many in our culture do not exhibit this state of belief. Our culture is constantly bombarding us with the message that we must possess more in order to be satisfied. The marketers are constantly trying to convince us that we need their product or service to be satisfied and happy. With this mindset, contentment becomes like a carrot on a stick that can never be grabbed. In Proverbs 30:7-9, there are some wise words about what we need: "Two things I ask of you, Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

The failure to learn to depend on our heavenly Father will cause us not to be content. The apostle Paul gives us a warning about this in 1 Timothy 6: But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. Our pursuit of contentment away from our heavenly Father will prove to be very destructive.

Being content is a discipline that can be manifested in us as we grow in our relationship with our heavenly Father with a thankful heart. We are instructed in Eph 5:20: And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul again instructs us in 1Thes 5:16: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. With our body, spirit, and soul we can trust our heavenly Father to give us what we need. In turn, we offer thanks to Him. May you have a joyful holiday season with a truly thankful and contentful heart.



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Lighten and brighten your holiday table

Holidays are synonymous with food, and normally what one would consider to be heavy food. This means besides the main protein that usually graces the table, either turkey or ham, for the most part, the side dishes are heavy too.

When you think about the mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, stuffing, and possibly sweet potatoes, you can't forget about the hot rolls, gravy, and pie. All of these dishes, and perhaps a few more that families and friends have added over the years, sit heavy in our stomachs. Rapidly sending us to the couch, the recliner, or even a bed for a nice, post-meal nap.

While many tables this holiday season may be home to a green, leafy salad, another option to lighten up those heavy options, all while doubling as a dessert, is a winter fruit salad.

Fruit salads are most often found on spring or summer tables, but no



by kara gerbert

law states they're not a viable option for your fall and winter holiday meals. Not only are you able to offer a lighter and healthier dessert option for your diners, but it is also a great way to take advantage of the late-season fruit options available to you.

Fruit salads as we know them today are a product of the mid-nineteenth century and were quite often mixed with sugar and alcohol. The fruit salads we are familiar with today showed up around World War II as a means of adding Vitamin C to our diets. Earlier in its history, around



Winter Fruit Salad

the 1920s, fruit salads became the molded jellied fruit salad that was common on dinner tables at that time. Versions of what could be termed "fruit salad" originated in ancient times, but those likely revolved around what was available in the country, what

Courtesy photo

ingredients happened to be in season, along with the cultural attitudes of the people towards the ingredients used. In Europe for example, the fruit salad evolved to contain mayonnaise, a familiar example being

a Waldorf salad. In other areas of the world, these types of salads could include mangoes, coconut, pineapple, and perhaps even nuts.

There are no wrong ingredients, as you can use tropical fruits, berries, apples, oranges, and even celery. There are also a few different ways to dress your fruit salad, such as Cool Whip, real sweetened whipped cream, sugar, and alcohol, or even, as this recipe calls for, something as unique as lemon poppy seed dressing.

How and what you use to prepare your fruit salad all boils down to personal preference, but no matter the fruit you decide to use, this is a sure way to lighten up that holiday table and offer a slightly healthier dessert option.

Winter Fruit Salad

Dressing: mented ¹/₄ cup honey 4 medium apples, (preferably 2 gala, and 2 opal 1 tablespoon lemon zest 2 tablespoons fresh lemor golden delicious) 4 large ripe kiwis, peeled on juice 1 tablespoon poppy seeds and diced 4 bananas (just ripe), peeled and diced Salad:

8 small mandarin or-1¹/₂ cup pomegranate aranges, peeled and seg- ils (from one large fruit)

Directions:

- For the dressing: In a mixing bowl, whisk together honey, lemon zest, lemon juice, and
- poppy seeds. For the salad: Add all of the prepared
- fruit to a large salad

bowl. Pour the dressing evenly over the top and gently toss to coat. Serve immediately Note: Pears may be used in place of ba-

nanas



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